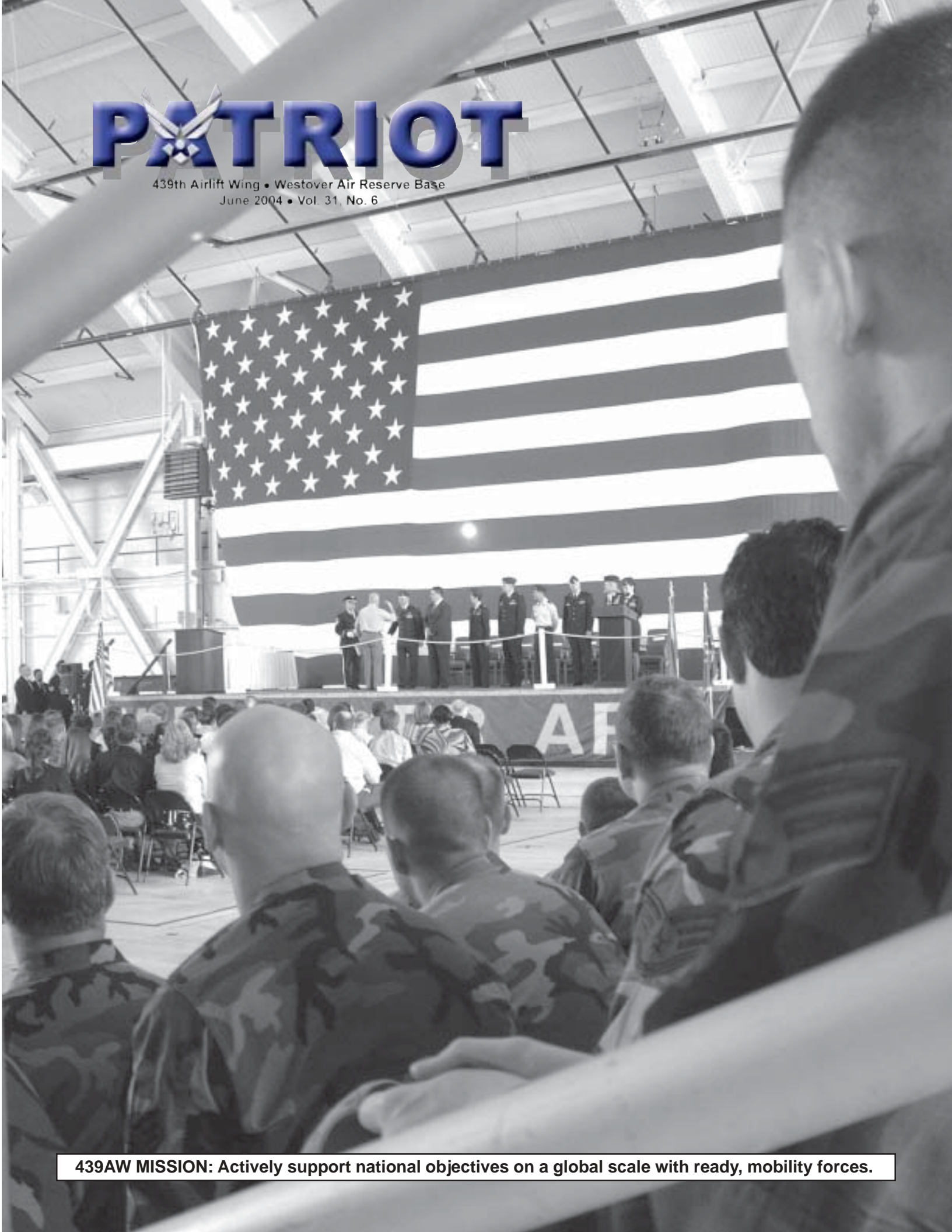


PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
June 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 6



439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

Culture of excellence at Westover

As a relative newcomer to Westover and the northeast, I'm struck by how most of our wing's membership grew up and still resides in the New England area. As the "newer" guy, I've come to realize that such common experience can be a double-edged sword: it contributes toward team effort and mission accomplishment but can inhibit us in adapting to inevitable change.

On the positive side, there is a culture of excellence at Westover. The wing speaks a common language and works as a team. I witnessed this as crews plowed runways and reservists shoveled driveways in the morning darkness during this winter's Nor'easters. While bad weather shut down



**Colonel
McGregor**

Commentary

runways and offices across the East Coast, Westover's dedicated people were launching and recovering aircraft and continuing their support.

How can we ensure this culture of excellence continues? It is up to each of us to carry it forward, especially in light of the recent retirements of senior members and, more importantly, leaders. These losses represent more than 200 years of experience and mark the end of a storied era. It also represents a new beginning with new leaders who have already begun to fill the large shoes left behind. I am optimistic, because it is this generation that's been supporting the last two years of high operations tempo.

This tempo will likely continue with unpredictable surges and spikes to further stress our resources. However, our leadership is working very hard to bring us into the AEF structure to provide predictability to our home and civilian lives. Thus far we have maintained the new tempo through volunteers, mobilization, and MPA days. I expect we will meet our future goals using an innovative mixture of flexible work schedules, civilian overtime and compensatory time, and reservists on every imaginable status.

Let me combine these two concepts of excellence and high ops tempo to discuss how Westover can transition from old paradigms to new ideas without losing that "better-than-the-rest" attitude. When change comes to an established system, many skeptics view it as disruptive. My experience with change (four unit aircraft conversions) proves just the opposite. Change met with an open attitude means opportunity. Change breaks down paradigms and makes us view our

CHANGE continued on page 11
by Lt. Col. U. Karl McGregor
439th Operations Group commander

Briefs

Third quarter award recipients announced

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following third quarter award winners for the fiscal 2004.

Company Grade Officer:

Capt. Michael A. Travelent, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior NCO:

MSgt. Wilbert Feltner, 439th AMXS NCO:

TSgt. Jeffrey R. Roule, 439th AMXS

Airman:

SrA. Mary E. Gallagher, 439th AW

Civilian (tie):

Lisa Robert, 439th AW, Richard Hunting, 439th Operations Support Squadron

Chaplain's staff collects donations for veterans

The 439th AW chaplain's staff is collecting toiletry donations for the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Donations may be left at several locations on base. They include the billeting office, shoppette, wing headquarters, and the base exchange.

The donation collection will conclude on the June B UTA. Items needed include toothpaste, shaving cream, deodorant, and soap.

For more information, call SrA. Michael Hyde at Ext. 3031.

M-16 training times change for B UTAs

Members of the combat arms section of the 439th Security Forces Squadron said M-16 rifle training will be held beginning at 9 a.m. on B UTA Saturdays through September.

This schedule change applies only to the B UTAs. Training classes held during the A UTAs still begin at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call TSgt. Quinn D. Moriarty at Ext. 2061.

Cover photo

SALUTE TO RETIREES - Retiring members of the 439th AW are honored May 1 in the Base Hangar during the annual Retiree Appreciation/Memorial Day ceremony. For more photos on the ceremony and coverage of some of those Patriot Wing members who recently concluded their careers, turn to Pages 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

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MSEP rating grows maintenance's esteem

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The Westover maintenance community once again earned an outstanding appraisal of their work.

This time, it was the outstanding rating the three maintenance squadron earned from the 22nd Air Force Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program. Twenty-two members from the 22nd AF headquarters at Dobbins ARB, Ga., inspected the Patriot Wing maintenance operations from April 26-30.

"This is a reflection on the attitude of our folks," said Col. William B. Anholt, 439th Maintenance Group commander. "They have a top-notch attitude and the MSEP results show the experience and dedication of the people here." Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, said the maintainers showed a higher headquarters inspection team that their skills remain honed even after a breakneck tempo of two years of activations and a C-5

"They proved they still kick butt. Their performance was not just a spin-up to an inspection."

-- Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander

surge. "They proved they still kick butt. Their performance was not just a spin-up to an inspection," he said.

"It's really like our report card," said Maj. Jeffrey S. Mullen, deputy commander for the MXG. Considering the inspectors had to comb through more than 3,000 checklist items, the maintenance group's deputy commander called the results "pretty significant." In fact, Major Mullen said, this was the first outstanding rating from a 22nd MSEP team

since the program began 18 months ago. "We were the first unit to have no major finding," he said. "It's all about the workers out there," Major Mullen said. "They're the ones who worked with the inspectors." Colonel Anholt, having just joined the 439th, marveled at the results. "This is absolutely awesome," he said. "They do what they need to do. They already had their act together. It's absolutely awesome."

The maintainers' hard work has earned statistics that have helped earn the 439th a superb reputation nationwide for C-5 maintenance quality.

In 2003, they broke records throughout the Air Force. From February through June, more than 2,000 C-5 flights passed through Westover during the surge of operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom. From February through May, the maintainers launched 1,103 C-5s – more than any other C-5 base in the world.

Maintenance commander handles duties of 'dream job'

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

Stepping into a dream job is how Col. William B. Anholt described his new role as 439th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group commander.

Colonel Anholt assumed command of the group from Col. Charles A. Brown who recently retired.

He says it's a dream job as he's now leading a group, which recently received an "outstanding" grade – the first for a maintenance group in 22nd Air Force – and boasts the highest C-5 launch reliability rate in Air Force Reserve Command.

However, it's also a daunting task for which he's uniquely qualified as the colonel arrives from McGuire AFB, N.J., where he served as a maintenance group commander. At Westover, the 26-year veteran is accountable for the functional areas of aircraft maintenance on the Patriot Wing's 16 C-5As, supply, transportation, and equipping and training his people.

And people issues are precisely where he said he'll focus.

"This group's past success is a reflection of how well our troops take care of the aircraft," the colonel said. "We're facing tough issues and manning shortages but our people are highly motivated. My job is to take care of the people by listening to them, giving them the tools they need to do their jobs and clearly defining the mission to keep them motivated."

A native of Portland, Ore., the colonel also serves as an example to his younger troops. That's because the man who now commands the organization responsible for keeping the C-5 ready for worldwide taskings began his Air Force career as an enlisted avionics technician.

Following six years in the enlisted ranks Colonel Anholt was commissioned at Officers Training School in 1984. That same year, he earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore.

Despite the increase in tempo and deployments, Colonel Anholt says the job remains the same: fixing and flying airplanes. The job takes the dedication of the troops.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

NEW BOSS - Col. William B. Anholt is the new 439th Maintenance Group commander. Colonel Anholt comes to Westover from McGuire AFB, N.J., where he commanded the 514th Maintenance Group.

"They know what they have to do. We have a good group of people who are committed. Now, it's time to 'get on,'" he said.

General Sherrard retires, General Bradley takes over as AFRC commander

WASHINGTON D.C. – President George W. Bush has nominated to the Senate the appointment of Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley to the grade of lieutenant general.

General Bradley has also been assigned as Chief of the Air Force Reserve; and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command.

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, who held those positions, retired June 1.

General Bradley was born in Lebanon, Tenn. He was commissioned in 1967 after completing the Air Force ROTC program as a distinguished graduate at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

He flew 337 combat missions in Vietnam. He has commanded a fighter training squadron, fighter group, fighter wing and numbered air force. He also served as

Deputy to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve and as the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force - Computer Network Operations. The general is a command pilot with more than 6,800 hours in various fighter aircraft.



General Bradley

Colonel Moore leaves with a smile and wave

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Lt. Col. David T. Moore, chief of Wing Safety, concluded a 31-year Air Force career with an uncharacteristic admission.

"I'm speechless this morning," he told well-wishers at a conference center farewell ceremony on the May A UTA. He then characteristically held the packed house in the palm of his hand, deftly spinning a string of anecdotes, self-effacing quips and disarmingly simple jokes that had them rolling in the aisles.

It would have been perfect, if Colonel Moore hadn't gotten a catch in his throat and a cinder in his eye. The understated words had a similar effect on an audience dominated by flight suited aircrew members not noted for outbursts of emotion. He brought everyone in the room to their feet with a standing ovation.

"God bless you all. I love you very much," he said.

The aura of good cheer that rippled through the farewell gathering of Airmen who had flown and served with him was nothing less than expected.

"He's the kind of guy other people want to be around...he has dignity, integrity and humor...he's made an awful lot of friends for Westover, especially in the local community," said Col. James R. Hosey, 439th Airlift Wing vice commander, who introduced him.

Colonel Moore was joined on the dais by family and friends. He paid a special tribute to his wife, Dale, with a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation for the sacrifices of the spouse of a career pilot over three decades.

Raised in West Haven, Conn., Colonel Moore was commissioned following graduation from the University of Connecticut. After pilot training, he first served as a T-29 Convair transport pilot and chief of aircrew training at Hancock Field, Syracuse, N.Y. Hancock Field hosted headquarters of the 21st NORAD Region in the 1970s.

He earned the Humanitarian Service Medal at Eglin AFB, Fla. as a refuge liaison officer assisting in the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees.

Colonel Moore came to Westover in 1977 as a C-123 aircraft commander with the old 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron. He piloted the C-130 Hercules in the wing from 1983 to 1987.

In 1987 he became a C-5 Galaxy instructor pilot when the wing transitioned to that huge airplane.

Activated in August, 1990, he flew 89 sorties in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, including 15 combat support sorties. In 1992 he was named 337th Airlift Squadron chief pilot.

A graduate of the Air War College, Air Command and Staff College and Flight Safety Officer course, he has logged more than 7,600 flight hours in Air Force aircraft.

Colonel Moore has served as chief of Wing Safety since 1996, responsible for the wing's flight, ground and weapons/explosive safety programs.

Colonel Moore resides in Clinton, Conn., with his wife Dale.

In April they celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary.

Colonel Moore recently accepted a position as Air Force Reserve Command Safety Program manager with Crew Training International, Inc. of Memphis, Tenn. He will provide advice and staff assistance to the command's 43 safety offices in the management of their numerous flight safety programs.

Colonel Moore left with a final message to the members of the 439th Airlift Wing.

"The leadership at Westover is in excellent hands. The safety office is in excellent hands. Our superb safety record is no accident. The safety culture in the 439th Airlift wing has been, and must continue to be, second to none. Safety is nothing less than the preservation of the nation's most precious human and material resources. I have millions of pleasant memories of my 26 1/2 years at Westover. God bless you all. I love you all. I will miss you very, very much."



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

SALUTE OF THANKS - Lt. Col. David T. Moore, chief of safety, salutes during his retirement ceremony on May 2 at the conference center. In addition to C-5s, Colonel Moore flew C-123 Provider and C-130 Hercules transports assigned to Westover in the 1980s.

Two retired colonels mark end of wing's C-123 era

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The departures of Lt. Cols. David T. Moore and Talivaldis I. Maidelis close the book on C-123K Provider flying officers at Westover.

Colonel Moore was the last pilot and Colonel Maidelis was the last navigator to

fly the Provider as members of the former 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron here. The last C-123K was flown to the "boneyard" from here in 1982, when the 731st TAS was folded into the 337th TAS, which flew C-130s. A few 337th AS flight engineers and loadmasters are veterans of the C-123 days. Among aircrew members, the Provider

was affectionately tagged as the "Dumpster." Those who flew the airplane liked to joke that their squadron was "a gentleman's flying club." Behind the joke was the fact that the aircrews sometimes picked their own route on weekend cross country missions. This was OK with the 14th Air Force at Dob-
see 123 continued on Page 5

Colonel Maidelis, wing IG, retires, ending 30-year career

by SrA. Tom Ouellette

For the past 30 years, including the 24 served here at the Patriot Wing, Lt. Col. Talivaldis "Tali" I. Maidelis has been fulfilling his childhood dream of a career in aviation.

"Ever since I was in the eighth grade I wanted to fly. I knew I'd join the Air Force," he said. With the Air Force spirit running in his veins, it comes as no surprise he admits it will be difficult to let go of the organization and group he loves.

"The most important thing about the Westover family is people here are always willing to help people. I'm going to miss that," he said.

Colonel Maidelis retired in May, leaving an indelible imprint of distinguished military service. He's the last remaining officer to navigate a C-123 Provider when the aircraft was assigned to Westover's (then) 439th Tactical Airlift Wing. Colonel Maidelis was activated in support of Operation Desert Storm/Shield. Also, when he commanded the 439th Civil Engineer Squadron, the unit earned the Air Force's Outstanding Unit Award in the late 1990's, a feat he relishes most.

"My greatest military accomplishment was getting CE (the 439th Civil Engineers) as a cohesive unit and getting the award," Colonel Maidelis said.

His passion for aviation will remain strong after his Air Force retirement. A self-described aviation enthusiast, Colonel

Maidelis is an avid collector of aviation memorabilia and confessed "there probably isn't an air museum I have not visited. I love anything aviation."

His civilian career will keep his passion for aviation alive. A manufacturing engineer since his arrival at Westover in 1980, he is working on aviation projects for RCM Technologies. Colonel Maidelis' employer is under contract with Sikorsky Aircraft working to improve the production speed and updating the capabilities of Blackhawk helicopters. Also, his company currently has a hand in developing the S-92, potentially the new, presidential helicopter.

His engineering skills earned Colonel Maidelis two patents related to pressure gauges. The gauges are now used to measure oxygen flow on respirators, but have the potential to be used elsewhere, he said.

Colonel Maidelis was born in Hartford, Conn., and graduated from high school in Manchester, Conn. He lives in Cheshire, Conn. with his wife of 31 years, Linda, and has two daughters, Meghan and Mara.

"If it was not for the support of my wife and children, I would not have accomplished anything. They have sacrificed so much in order for me to serve others," he said. He is a ROTC graduate from North Carolina State, receiving his commission and a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering in 1974.

His first navigation active-duty assignment was at Minot AFB, N.D., where he spent four years before heading to



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

DEVOTION - Lt. Col. Talivaldis I. Maidelis, with his wife, Linda, reads his retirement certificate on May 2 with Col. James R. Hosey, 439th AW vice commander.

Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. as a navigator/instructor. He arrived at Westover in 1980 and navigated on both C-123s and C-130s.

Maidelis transferred to the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron in 1985 and became its commander in 1996. He was the Patriot Wing's Inspector General since 2001.

Colonel Maidelis said leaving Westover is not easy - but not because he will no longer be around aviation, his lifelong passion. Instead, he said the most difficult aspect about retiring is not being around Westover's people.

"I've been here 24 years. I miss flying, but I keep involved in aviation. But the one thing about Westover is that you can always find a buddy here. It's the best thing about Westover," he said.

123 continued from Page 4

bins ARB, Ga., as long as the training requirements were completed.

Aircrews would come in on a Friday and decide where on the East Coast to go on the weekend, just as long as their destination had aviation gas available because the plane did not use JP-4.

The C-123K was a twin engine monoplane of semi-monocoque construction powered by two water injected RA2800 cubic engine displacement reciprocating engines and two General Electric J-85 auxiliary jet engines.

The airplane cruised at 140 knots at 8,000 feet. Colonel Maidelis remembers carrying plastic sheeting to protect against rain which would come through the hatches of the unpressurized aircraft while in flight. "The navigator's station would get wet all the time. There would be puddles inside the airplane," he said.

The crews frequently flew aeromedical evacuation training missions to Florida on weekends. The two colonels also remember returning home by a route that took them up the Hudson River, flying lower than the



Courtesy photo

AIRBORNE - A 439th C-123 Provider takes off from Westover by the old control tower, circa late 1970s.

New York City skyscrapers. They'd fly north until they got to Newburg, N.Y. and turn right to Westover.

The C-123 was flown with "pure navigational skills," Colonel Maidelis said. The

airplane had no weather radar and mostly flew by VFR. The navigator calculated with a metal wheel before computer calculators, adjusted their route with a visual "drift meter" extending from the bottom of the plane and the navigator had to ask the pilots the airspeed.

The navigator's station was outside the cockpit and the navigator's chair was attached to a pole so the navigator could swing from his desk to the cockpit opening.

During take-off the navigator sat in a passenger seat. During an airdrop, the navigator sat behind the co-pilot and controlled it visually.

Every two years the squadron would deploy for 30 to 45 days to the former Howard AFB, Panama, from which they would fly Coronet Oak supply missions to American embassies in Central and South America.

On other missions to Europe, the Provider would carry additional fuel in the cargo compartment and a flight mechanic would pump it as needed.

Patriot Wing salutes its retiring reservists



photo by SrA. Michael Lanza

SOUND OF REMEMBRANCE - TSgt. Richard A. McLean, 42nd APS, plays Taps for the members of the 439th Airlift Wing lost this past year.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

STANDING TALL - This year's retirees stand at attention as the Memorial Day wreath is moved into place.



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

BANNER YEAR - Members of the 337th Airlift Squadron along with units from all around base honor the retirees in a ceremony. Eighteen retirees and more than 120 family members attended at the Base Hangar.

The annual Retiree Appreciation Day and Memorial Day ceremony honored 18 retiring Air Force reservists May 1 in the Base Hangar. Family members of the retirees viewed the ceremony from their seats arranged in front of the stage. Reservists from Westover who died this year were remembered by members of their families during the Memorial Day ceremony.

Formations from three squadrons, along with singing from vocalist SrA. Leanne Sambrook, 439th AW, were also featured.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

SUPPORT SECTION - Relatives, friends and fellow reservists honored the Westover retirees May 1.

CONGRATS - Col. John E. Riley accepts congratulations on his retirement from James P. Carey of Griffin Services March 31. Colonel Riley, a pilot with 8,000 hours in various cargo aircraft, held many leadership positions within the Patriot Wing, and served his country for 35 years.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

FAMILY - Lt. Col. Patricia Hale, former 439th Maintenance Squadron commander, chats with TSgt. Christopher J. McKee, 439 MXS. Also pictured are Colonel Hale's daughters, Angela and Allison. Colonel Hale retired in February.



photo by Gordon Newell

CHIEF RETIRES - CMSgt. Ronald J. Tyson, 439th AW senior recruiter, accepts a gift from Lt. Col. Mary Roehl, 622nd Reserve Recruiting Flight commander, March 17 at the conference center during his retirement ceremony.



photo by TSgt. Don Talbot

CAREER CAP - Maj. Timothy S. Donnelly, 439th Security Forces Squadron commander, adjusts the squadron beret for Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka, who retired April 3. Colonel Mauzaka was most recently the special assistant to Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander. He had served at Westover since 1982.



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

FLAG FINALE - Col. Charles A. Brown accepts the American flag from SrA. Shelly A. Martin, on his retirement April 3. Colonel Brown, who served as the 439th Maintenance Group commander, also flew B-52 Stratofortress bombers from Westover during the Vietnam War. A former prisoner of war, North Vietnamese gunners shot down his bomber with a surface-to-air missile in 1972 during the Linebacker II bombing raids. He was held captive for 101 days before being released in April 1973.

NCO's Heimlich maneuver saves life of co-worker

Article and photo

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Patriot Wing NCO's quick thinking and precise CPR skills recently helped save the life of her co-worker.

TSgt. Kimberly A. Babin, 439th AW Family Support Center, went to lunch in March with two support center co-workers, MSgt. Thomas Demers and TSgt. Donna Gregory, at the Westover Club March 23.

"We were eating and discussing an upcoming function hosted by the center when Sergeant Gregory lowered her head as if gagging on the turkey breast sandwich she was eating," Sergeant Babin said. "She had a large piece of food in her mouth. I first thought she was gagging on a piece of long lettuce from her sandwich. I asked her if she was indeed choking, and got no response. I immediately asked her if she heard me, with again no response."

Sergeant Babin quickly got up from the table.

"I was trained in CPR class that the person who is choking will nod if conscious when asked if choking. Sergeant Gregory did not. But she began to rise from her chair as did Sergeant Demers and I," Sergeant Babin said.

She again asked Sergeant Gregory if she was OK and if she was choking and again got no response. "Sergeant Gregory began to tighten up her body and I knew at once that she couldn't hear my questions. I assumed the position to apply the Heimlich maneuver and whispered into her ear that I was going to attempt the maneuver and asked her to relax. She immediately relaxed her body and I was able to assume the position with a good grasp of my hand. I performed the first thrust with no results. Sergeant Demers was next to us and said that nothing came out," she said. Sergeant Babin tried again.

"I again assumed the position and with a little more force performed the maneuver and successfully dislodged the shaved turkey breast and bread from her throat," she said. "Sergeant Gregory fell back into her seat. I checked to see if she was all right. It was very emotional for both of us and once we regained our composure, I returned to my chair."

According to Sergeant Demers, the entire incident took about 15 seconds.

Sergeant Gregory recalled that she lost consciousness but somehow managed to stand up so that Sergeant Babin could help. "I lost my eyesight and hearing. I am so



TO THE RESCUE - TSgt. Kimberly A. Babin, left, saved the life of her co-worker, TSgt. Donna Gregory, using the Heimlich maneuver. Sergeant Babin earned the Commendation Medal for her quick thinking and CPR skills.

grateful to be alive. You don't know what this experience is like until you have managed to live through it yourself!"

Sergeant Babin received the Air Force Commendation Medal for her actions during Commander's Call on the April AUTA.

Sergeant Babin lives in South Hadley, Mass.

The Westover Fire Department offers CPR training on base. For more information on classes, call Ext. 2105.

Leaders' failures drove them to future successes

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is part of a series that assists Patriot Wing members meet the new Air Force fitness standards which went into effect Jan. 1.

Maj. Patrick Ryan is the wing fitness program manager.

by Maj. Patrick Ryan

Failure is part of life.

We fail to win the heart of the one we're sure we were to marry some day. We fail in our attempts to buy that mansion on the ocean. There are millions of examples across an expanse of personal experience.

Some people will fail the new Air Force fitness test the first time. Even those who have put forth hours of training and preparation may find themselves inches or seconds short. They'll be distraught and discouraged; perhaps even rightfully so at first. Some may even want to quit at that point.

The way we are measured isn't in that failure; instead it is in our reactions to it. Do we let that defeat define us? Throughout the history of the military, Air Force men and women have set

themselves apart through great achievement: people like Billy Mitchell, Chuck Yeager, and Curtis LeMay. All these names are legends – the best of the best to ever serve as Airmen. All these names have something else in common as well: failure.

It was Billy Mitchell's failure to convince the Army Air Corps and US Naval brass that airpower was the future that led to his famous demonstration of sinking the German ship *Ostfriedland*.

Chuck Yeager's quest to shatter the sound barrier wasn't a success on his first attempt. It was on the ninth try that he successfully breached the barrier.

Curtis LeMay's high-altitude daylight precision bombing campaign over Japan in the late days of World War II was an abject disaster to start. Yet all of these men refused to let these defeats, none of which were even remotely minor, control their

destiny.

Mitchell's theories are still practiced today – the air war over Kosovo a crowning achievement to his legacy. Yeager paved the way for our F-22 Raptor and its supercruise capability. LeMay's tactics shift to low-level firebombing helped end World War II years sooner than any ground campaign could have.

They accepted failure not as an ending, but as a continuation. It became their motivational tool with which to soldier on.

The best advice I can give is citing these names in this article. They are heroes of successive generations all known for outstanding achievements – and every single one of them failed along the way. Nary a one of them rested on those setbacks and instead rode them as encouragement to greater victory.

The road is hard and there are potholes. Don't give up. Perhaps some day it will be an Airman from Westover whose name is synonymous with greatness...even after a brush with failure.



Major Ryan

Letter praises Patriot Wing honor guard service

by SrA. Tom Ouellette

A Chicopee woman, so moved by the support and dedication from the Patriot Wing during a difficult time in her life, recently penned her thanks to every man and woman in uniform serving at Westover.

Pat Coelho wrote a letter of appreciation to Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, the Westover Family and the Patriot Wing's Honor Guard.



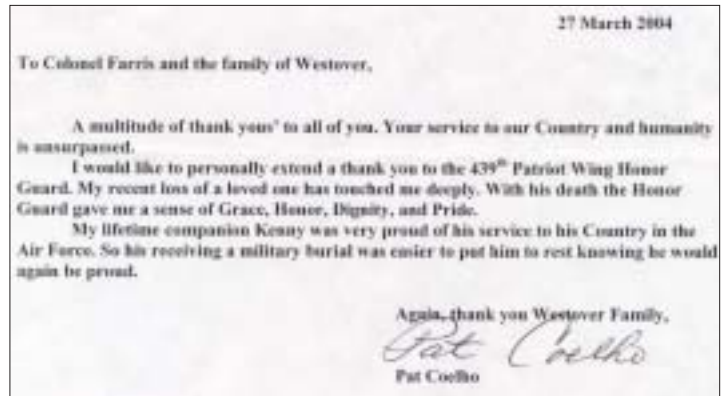
Pat Coelho

Mrs. Coelho lost her life-long companion, veteran Kenneth Poulin, in January. Mr. Poulin's military career began with the Army Air Corps. Westover's Honor Guard rendered Mr. Poulin's military funeral honors and their precision left a lasting impression on Mrs. Coelho.

"I was in awe. They (the honor guard) were perfect. I don't think I can ever express how much I feel; how much this met to me. I knew Kenny loved the Air Force and

I kept picturing him, his pride, and I could almost feel his pride in me," Mrs. Coelho said. She decided to address the letter to all Westover reservists in tribute of Mr. Poulin's love for the Air Force and to let all of Westover's military members know many like her appreciate the service and dedication they make for their community and country, she said. Conversations with friends and family led her to the conclusion people don't thank the military enough, she said.

"People kept praising the military and I asked them, 'do you ever thank them?' Most said they didn't, so I wanted to," Mrs.



Coelho said.

Mr. Poulin's funeral had a bittersweet moment. TSgt Theresa B. Dionne, from the 337th Airlift Squadron and an honor guard member, presented her father's flag to her mother. Military tradition involves presenting the American flag that drapes a veteran's coffin to the next of kin.

"It was hard (presenting the flag to her mother). I had a difficult time. It's hard enough to lose a loved one, especially when it's your dad, but I wanted to respect him and in a way, show respect to my mom. In one way I was thanking my dad for his service to his country as a veteran but I was also honoring him as my dad," Sergeant Dionne said.

Mrs. Coelho said Sergeant Dionne's father could not have been more proud.

"He loved Terri so much. I know he's proud of her," she said.

CHANGE continued from Page 2

processes without our old filters. I urge everyone to take this time of opportunity to incorporate new ideas and outside influences wherever possible. Call and visit your counterparts across AFRC and bring their best practices home. Review your business practices for speed bumps and make sure that all the work you're doing still has a relevant purpose.

Our task is to build a flexible operation that can meet the constantly changing requirements of an Air Force that is reinventing itself in the face of a new and dangerous post-Cold War world. I truly believe that Westover has the quality people to

make that transition, but I'm concerned with our chronic shortages in manning. This places an additional burden on all of us to fix it. We each need to actively recruit, not just here at home but also when we're on the road. Take note of hard-working airmen who may not be amenable to staying on active duty. Tell them how great we are and that we need them on our team. Westover is one of the best-kept secrets in the Air Force Reserve, but it's time to share just enough of that secret to fill our ranks with the right people to continue the excellence for the next generation.

List provides career field bonus information

The following are specific Bonus Air Force Specialty Codes for the 439th Airlift Wing for April 1 through September 30. Questions can be directed to MSgt. Lori Boucher, wing career assistance advisor, at Ext. 3435.

AFSC		2A5X3B	Integrated Avionics Systems
1A1X1	Flight Engineer	2A6X1	Aerospace Propulsion
2A551J	Aerospace Maintenance	2A6X2	Aerospace Ground Equipment
2A571	Aerospace Maintenance	2A6X4	Aircraft Fuel Systems
2A553A	Integrated Avionics Systems	2A6X5	Aircraft Hydraulics Systems
		2A6X6	Aircraft Electrical/Environmental Systems
		2A7X3	Aircraft Structural Maintenance
		2R1X1	Maintenance Production Management

2S0X1	Supply Management
2T2X1	Air Transportation
3A0X1	Information Management
3E0X2	Electrical Power Production
3E2X1	Pavements and Construction Equipment
3E7X1	Fire Protection
3E8X1	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
3E9X1	Readiness
3P0X1	Security Forces
3P0X1B	Security Forces
3S0X1	Personnel
4A0X1*	Health Services

Management -
*(Westover ARB only)
4A1X1* Medical Materiel -
*(Westover ARB only)
4N0X1 Medical Service Technician
X4N0X1 Medical Service Technician
4V0X1 Optometry
4Y0X1 Dental Technician

Passenger terminal opens to Space A travelers

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Space Available travel has returned to Westover, with expanded opportunities for spouses of retirees and active duty members.

Space A travel through the Westover Passenger Terminal resumed in April for the first time since the 9/11 attacks on America. Those eligible to travel on Space Available

include reservists, retirees and the spouses of retirees.

Starting last year, family members of active duty and retired members became eligible to travel within the continental United States. Previously, they were only eligible to travel outside the continental United States.

Reservists are eligible to travel on Space Available anywhere in the 50 states. Spouses of reservists are not eligible for Space Available. After the age of 60, retired reservists and their spouses enjoy the same Space Available privileges as active duty retirees, including worldwide Space Available travel.

The Patriot Wing Space Available pro-

gram is conducted by the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron with the assistance of retiree volunteers. The Westover Passenger Terminal is located in the south wing of Hangar 3.

A taped message on the Westover Space Available program is available at Ext. 2549. Requests to travel can be made by telephone. However, due to security, schedules and destinations are not given over the telephone.

The Westover Passenger Terminal is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The telephone numbers for the passenger terminal are Exts. 3543 or 2622.

General information on Space Available travel is on an Air Mobility Command web site at: <http://public.amc.af.mil/spacea/spacea.htm>.

Former missileer takes command of 439th Services Squadron

by SrA. Michael Lanza

A former missileer took command of the 439th Services Squadron on May 2.

Maj. Patrick L. Dufraine took command during a ceremony that celebrated both new leadership and change while honoring a long and illustrious Air Force career.

Major Dufraine began his Air Force career in 1990 as an ICBM launch officer at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

He was also a ROTC instructor at Bos-

ton University and chief of emergency war order training at Minot AFB, N.D., before arriving at Westover in June 2001 as the officer in charge of training at the 58th Aerial Port Squadron.

"I want us to have top notch service and reflect on retention values," Major Dufraine said. He plans to improve the dining facility and implement fitness programs that will help Patriot Wing members maintain their high standards, helping to improve their outlook and support retention.

"In the Air Force we're very flexible because our mission isn't specialized into one command... we can go anywhere," Major Dufraine said, emphasizing the importance of mobility training in the squadron.

The services squadron provides housing, food and helps maintain morale for Patriot Wing personnel.

The services motto, "best trained, best equipped and ready to go," implemented by former commander Maj. Charles R. Zaorski, has been an important theme for services Airmen since 9/11, Major Zaorski said. He retired on the A UTA with his first sergeant, SMSgt. Calvin C. Brown. Major Zaorski became the services commander in July 2000 after two and a half years as the commander of the 439th Communications Squadron. "I saved the best for last," he said.

A variety of well-known areas on base fall under the squadron's responsibility. Those include the Westover Club, bowling center, fitness center, lodging, marketing and the outdoor recreation/rental center. Most services reservists are required to be deployed within 72 hours' notification.

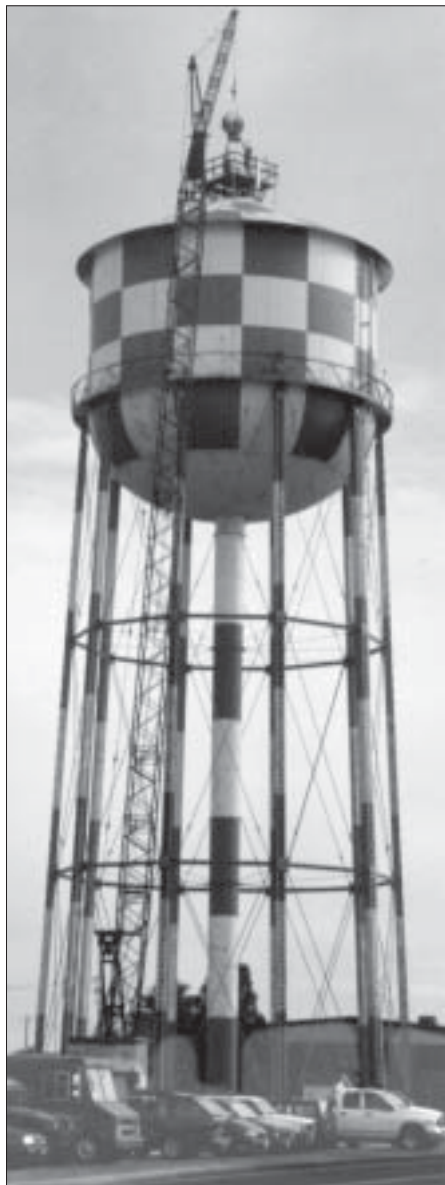


photo by Gordon Newell

HIGH LIGHT - A crane lowers the new rotating beacon into place atop the water tower at Westover. Crews installed the new airport beacon on April 20. It beams alternating white and green lights from its perch on the tower, more than 100 feet from the ground.



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

AT YOUR SERVICES - Maj. Patrick L. Dufraine, the new 439th Services Squadron commander, talks to the audience gathered for his change of command ceremony May 2 at the conference center. Major Dufraine is a former ICBM launch officer who reported to missile silos at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Westover volunteer wins command level award

Robert D. Pozos recently earned the Air Force Reserve Command Volunteer Excellence Award.

Mr. Pozos, from East Longmeadow, Mass., is a retired Air Force technical sergeant and director of the base Retiree Activities Office, received the award on April 28 from Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander. Mr. Pozos deflected the praise and instead cited the help from all of the volunteers as the reason for his award. "I couldn't have done the work without the volunteers we have," he said. "And I thank you."

Mr. Pozos supervises 16 volunteers in the RAO. He also oversees another 26 volunteers who help out with the Space A.

"I enjoy the feeling of knowing that I helping someone learn about what their benefits," he said. "We figure here are about 5,000 retirees." He said they call and come over to the base a lot. TRICARE benefits."

The volunteer excellence award ceremony was held at the dining facility to honor National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Colonel Farris honored Mr. Pozos and more than 80 other Westover volunteers who serve in the Pioneer Valley USO, Retiree

Affairs Office and other areas.

Colonel Farris remembered Westover's volunteers when he was commander of the 914th AW at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., and had transited Westover with his unit. He said military aircrews like his returning from Europe often choose to divert to Westover because of the base's reputation for a warm welcome. "You guys are part of it," Colonel Farris said. "A large part of it because of everything you guys have done. Without the volunteers, Westover would not have the reputation we have of taking care of our troops."



Robert Pozos

Leadership of the 439th Airlift Wing also honored the following volunteers with certificates in April:

Charlotte Doiron
Miriam Duval
Christine Fittzell
Grace Gray
Gayle Gould
Gloria Illnicki
Christine Kaleta
Candice Keddy
Verna & James McMalton
Sue Austin
Christine Grady
John Lauzan
Alan Shaw
Laura Pashko
Cindy Patnode
Richard Lavallee
Lucille Niemiec
Eileen Lepine

Jane Socha
Olive Monks
Cecile Blustine
Pat Ames
Nadia Belorusk
Erwin Belorusk
Margaret Cote
Joann DeCesare
Shirley Demers
Suzanne Graham
Kitty Grenier
Paul Grenier
Bonnie Grenier
Barbara Kovarik
Diane Kurr
Pat Marios
Martha Mangini
William Murray

Dottie Pompare
Ray Pompare
Sue Rutkowski
Clyde Waite
Dorothy Waite
Sandra Wakefield
Paul Adkins
Ronald Akins
Mark Arnstam
Les Buchmann
Thomas Chizmar
Jeffrey Cummings
Maurice Dion
John P. Foley
Rex Fowlow
Gino Fugazzi
Charles Gintowt
Martin T. Condon

John Kimball
Ben Madamba
Warren E. McAvoy
Frank Monzillo
John E. Noonan
Raymond Norton
Michael Nunziato
Dolores Pozos
Fred and Betty Sallade
Frank Smith
Robert Stein
George Terault
Stanley and Virginia Tokarski
James and Anita Malcolm
Paul Wisnewski
Eunice Polowitzer
Vic Viglione

DFAS savings program assists deployed troops

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Deployed Air Force reservists serving in a combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone have a chance to earn a guaranteed 10-percent interest on their savings.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials implemented the Savings Deposit Program in August 1990 for service men and women serving in the Persian Gulf conflict.

Over the years, the program progressively changed to include troops assigned to other areas outside the United States, on ships or in mobile units.

The current Savings Deposit Program includes people on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom or in direct support of a combat zone.

"A servicemember can contribute up to \$10,000, but interest of 10 percent will not accrue after that amount," said Roger

Castillo, program director.

People can participate in the program if they have served at least 30 consecutive days, or at least one day for each of three consecutive months, in an area that has been designated as a combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone.

Also, people serving on permanent duty assignments outside the United States or its possessions supporting contingency operations and serving on active duty in the designated area for more than 30 days can participate.

To make a deposit into the fund, members should contact their finance office. Reservists will make deposits by cash, check or money order. Withdrawing the money before leaving the combat zone is not authorized, unless there is an emergency.

The last day to make a deposit into the fund is the date of departure from the as-

signment; however, interest will accrue up to 90 days after their return from deployment.

Interest is computed at the rate of 10 percent per annum and compounded quarterly, based on the calendar year.

Air Force Reserve Command has more than 6,000 reservists called up. About 1,400 of them are deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and the surrounding region.

"This is a great opportunity for servicemembers to accrue at a higher interest rate than at an average interest rate of 2 or 3 percent," said Patrick T. Shine, acting director of DFAS.

Westover reservists with questions about this savings program may contact Rebecca Cross, financial services officer, at Ext. 3460.

(AFRC News Service from a DFAS news release)

Council advises commander on enlisted issues

Members of the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC) covered many base issues during its May A UTA meeting.

JEAC members are working on having a booth at Westover's Great New England Airshow, set for Aug. 14-15. The booth would enable members to inform people about what the council does for the wing and the base.

The council is also planning a possible Combat Dining-In at Westover in the fall. More information will be available as plans and ideas are firmed up.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, chairs the JEAC. The 439th AW Command CMSgt. Jeffrey Sherwin, leads it. With direct access to the wing commander, the council functions as an advisory board to Colonel Farris, bringing to his

attention any quality of life concerns or complaints junior enlisted members have.

JEAC members also assisted the wing protocol staff with checking in more than 100 family and friends of reservists who retired during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day on May 1.

In other business:

* Chief Sherwin urged JEAC members to let their squadron members know about the importance of joining such military organizations as the Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, Noncommissioned Officers Association and the Reserve Enlisted Association. "These organizations lobby for us in Congress and are respon-

sible for 75 percent of the legislation that passes which benefits reservists," the chief said.

* TSgt. Adam Burr, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is the primary speaker for the JEAC at the monthly Welcome Center newcomers briefing. TSgt. Matthew Gaudet, 439 Maintenance Operations Squadron, is the alternate. They will speak from 9:20-9:30 a.m. on Saturdays of the A UTAs.

* Colonel Farris said that the fitness center staff followed up on a JEAC suggestion for expanded hours at the center, which will remain open until 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays before the A and B UTAs. It opens at 5:30 a.m. on UTA weekends.

JEAC's members are made up of reservists in the rank of airman basic through technical sergeant.

The next JEAC meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. June 13 in the 439th Mission Support Group conference room, in Bldg. 1850. For more information on the council, call TSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe at Ext. 2020 or TSgt. Patrick Conway at Ext. 2346.

Information

The Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC) meets each Sunday of each A UTA at 9 a.m. in the 439th Mission Support Group conference room, Bldg. 1850 (wing headquarters).

Congress to begin reviewing spending proposals

WASHINGTON — Congress has considered several legislative proposals since 9/11 designed to help reservists and their families cope with activations, high operational and personnel tempo, family separations and shifts in annual income.

One of the most recent is Senate Bill 2068, the Guard and Reserve Enhanced Benefits Act of 2004. Introduced in February, the bill would expand benefits beyond those outlined in President Bush's \$401 billion proposed 2005 Department of Defense budget.

The Senate bill calls for providing child care assistance grants, expanding Montgomery GI Bill benefits, deferring student loan payments, reducing the age for drawing reserve retirement pay and expanding TRICARE coverage regardless of employment or insurance status.

The bill also allows employers to claim up to \$12,000 in tax

credits for the pay differential of National Guard and Reserve employees.

In its review, one major factor that Congress will take into account is the number of mobilized reservists. As of April 27, the Department of Defense reported that more than 170,000 reservists and National Guard members were mobilized. Of that number, more than 5,400 were reservists in Air Force Reserve Command.

If the president's budget for fiscal 2005 is enacted, the Air Force Reserve would receive \$3.788 billion to train, equip, organize and administer some 76,000 reservists. This request is comprised of \$2.24 billion for operation and maintenance, \$1.464 billion for reserve personnel and \$84 million for military construction.

Officials will not know what is included in the final authorization and appropriations bills until probably later this summer.

(AFRC News Service)

Briefs

Case lot sale scheduled for July UTA at Westover

Another case lot sale is set for the July A UTA at Westover. The sale will be held in the Base Hangar on July 10 and 11. For more information, call (781) 377-3372.

Barnes ANGB to host case lot sale June 12-13

A commissary case lot sale will be held at Barnes ANGB in Westfield, Mass., June

12 and 13.

Air Force commissary case lot sales offer discounted food and household items.

Sale hours June 12 will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. On June 13, hours will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (413) 568-9151, Ext. 1183.

Air Force Clubs give away \$25,000 in scholarships

The Air Force Clubs program is giving away \$25,000 in scholarships. Six scholarships will be awarded, with the top prize of \$6,000 for higher education costs.

Scholarships will be awarded based on a 500-word essay entitled "What Freedom Means to Me." All entries must be submitted to Chris Menard, services director, by July 15.

Air Force Club members and their family members (e.g., spouse, son, daughter, stepson, and stepdaughter) who have been accepted by or are enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry during the fall 2004 term as a part-time or full-time student are eligible. This is the eighth year that Air Force Clubs has offered this benefit to members. For additional information on the scholarship program, contact Mr. Menard at Ext. 2899.



Donna M. Tatro

Patriot People

Name: Donna M. Tatro

Age: 43

Address: Florence, Mass.

Unit: 439th Communications Squadron

Position: Local area network (LAN) manager assistant

Favorite food: My homemade lasagna

Years at Westover: One and a half

Favorite sport: Golf

Favorite hobby: Photography

Ideal vacation: Anywhere without my cell phone

Best way to relax: Gardening

Preferred entertainment: Comedy

Favorite hero: My dad

Favorite music: Rock ('70s/'80s/'90s)

Favorite movie: Catch Me If You Can

Favorite aircraft: One that's on the ground

Pet peeve: People who don't try

What would I do if I won \$1 million: I would give to the homeless and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Finally, I would buy a house with lots of land.

photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

Patriot Praises

Newly assigned:

Airman first class:

Mark D. Regan II
Rosanna M. Rossi
Christina L. Rundstrom

Jennifer L. Smith
Jessica M. Solorzano
Steven Surprenant
Christopher Vidal
Robert M. Williams
Mary C. Young

Airman basic:
Fritz K. Barthelemy
Cory D. Copeland
Martyna Fal
Laura A. Hagmeyer
Carolyn A Hassie

Michael R. Iannelli
Francisco J. Ramirez
Dwayne D. Russell
Nathan M. Tarleton
Nicholas J. Trudell

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Christopher T. Cortese
Maj. Jeffrey F. Hancock *
Maj. Cathrine R. Manning
Maj. John J. Niakaros
Maj. Richard C. Tilburg
SMSgt. John E. Kinda
SMSgt. David A Perrault
TSgt. Scott E. Andrews *

Airman Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Paul O. Brisson
MSgt. Jeff K. Antuna *
MSgt. Robert F. Metcalf **
TSgt. Kimbely A. Babin
TSgt. Anthony M. Diggs
TSgt. Theresa B. Dionne
TSgt. Joshua O. Lambert **
TSgt. Gregory S. Lavangie ***
TSgt. Christopher Palmer
TSgt. Jeffery G. Vanderpool *
SSgt. Scott T. Theriault *
SSgt. Caroline Roy

Airman Force Achievement Medal

SSgt. Kara B. Davis
SSgt. Christopher C. O' Brian

SrA. Andrew J. Hackett
SrA. Brian D. Kerr

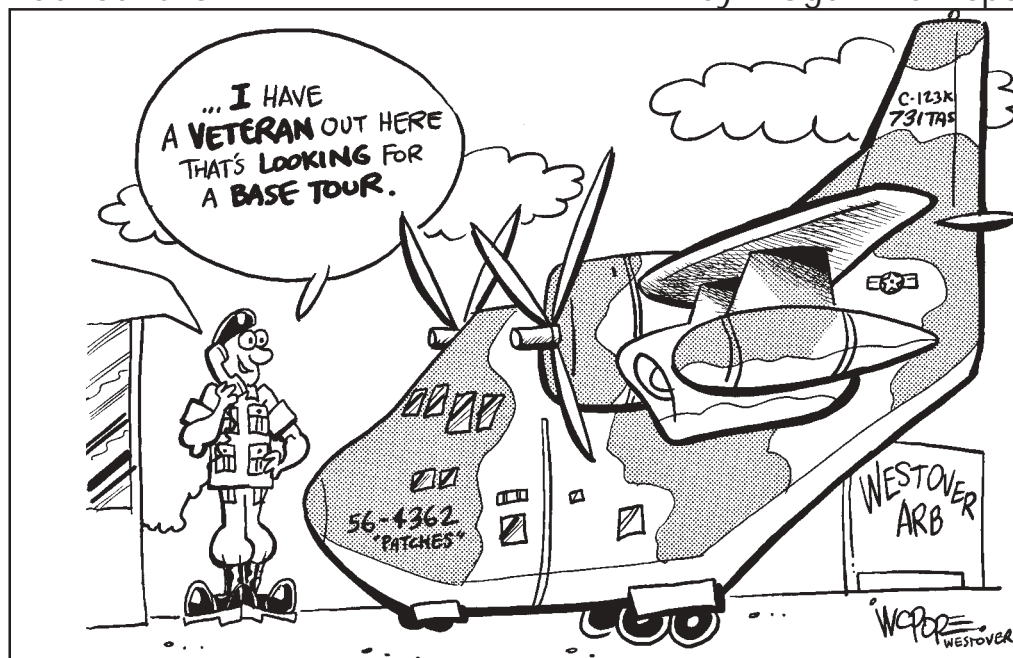
*First oak leaf cluster

**Second oak leaf cluster

***Third oak leaf cluster

Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C. Pope



June 24 - Employer Appreciation Day

Employer Appreciation Day has been scheduled for June 24.

To have invitations sent to their bosses, reservists should fill out the application form below and return it to the Public Affairs office located in wing headquarters. A letter will then be sent from Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, to each employer.

This year's Employer Appreciation Day will get started at 9 a.m. at the Westover Club where employers will be treated to coffee and refreshments.

Employers will be bussed to the flight line at approximately 10:30 a.m. where they will board a unit C-5 for an orientation flight. Reservists who wish to join their employers for lunch after

the flight must pay in advance.

Each reservist will be allowed to invite just one supervisor. Only those reservists assigned to the aircrew will be allowed to board the C-5 for the orientation flight.

Further information is available at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1850 or by calling (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name/address: _____

Lunch for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Lunch for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

*439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825*



www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

June UTA schedule

A UTA June 12-13

B UTA June 26-27



439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Theresa B. Dionne, Chicopee, Mass., and 2,303 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.